

CLAIMS

1. An electronic voting system comprising:
 - a memory storage device containing
 - ballot information including a plurality of ballot options for a contest, each 5 ballot option designated in a selected order of ballot options for the contest;
 - a voting station including
 - an electronically configurable ballot information presentation device operable for presenting the ballot information in the selected order during a first voting session, and
 - 10 a voter input device operable for permitting voter directed ballot data entry to produce a cast ballot responsive to the ballot information presented by the ballot information presentation device; and
 - a ballot rotation engine operable to change the selected order of ballot options according to a predetermined ordering schema for additional voting 15 sessions.
 2. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, comprising a network including a precinct control unit and a plurality of voting stations.
 3. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the precinct control unit is configured to access the memory storage device to obtain
 - 20 the ballot information and process the same to implement the ordering schema among the plurality of voting stations.
 4. The electronic voting system of claim 3, wherein the ordering schema is implemented through program instructions to the precinct control unit

for balancing the selected order of ballot options amongst the plurality of voting stations so as not to favor any one of the plurality of ballot options at a precinct level during the course of an election.

5. The electronic voting system of claim 1, wherein the ballot information includes a plurality of contests each with associated ballot options, and the ballot rotation engine is operable to change the selected order of the associated ballot options among the plurality of contests.

6. The electronic voting system of claim 1, wherein the ballot information includes a plurality of contests with associated ballot options and the ballot rotation engine is operable to change the selected order of corresponding ballot options among selected ones of the plurality of contests.

7. The electronic voting system of claim 6, including a plurality of predetermined ordering schema for use in the ballot rotation engine, each of the contests being identified to a selected one of the plurality of predetermined ordering schema.

8. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contest comprises a race for elective officials.

9. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contest comprises a referendum for proposed new legislation.

20 10. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronically configurable ballot information presentation device comprises a visual display.

11. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronically configurable ballot information presentation device comprises an audio speaker.

12. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the 5 electronically configurable ballot information presentation device comprises a Braille printer.

13. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the voter input device comprises a manually actuatable switch.

14. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the 10 voter input device comprises a voter-directed ballot navigation tool.

15. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program instructions for randomization of the selected order of ballot options between successive iterations.

16. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the 15 predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program instructions for sequential rotation of the ballot options.

17. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the program instructions for sequential rotation of the ballot options comprise 20 program instructions for uprotation of adjacent ballot options.

18. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the program instructions for sequential rotation of the ballot options comprise program instructions for downrotation of adjacent ballot options.

19. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program instructions for implementing a system of rotation at a precinct level.

20. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the 5 predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program instructions for implementing a system of rotation at an election jurisdiction level.

21. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program 10 instructions for implementing a system of rotation that provides a number of rotation instances for each candidate in a first position of the selected order such that predominance of any one candidate at the top of the selected order is statistically insignificant in influencing an election outcome.

22. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined ordering schema of the ballot rotation engine comprises program 15 instructions for implementing a system of rotation that provides, as close as is mathematically possible, an equal number of rotation instances for each candidate at all positions of the selected order.

23. The electronic voting system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ballot rotation engine comprises program instructions for implementing a lookup 20 table for changing the selected order of the additional voting sessions.

24. A method of electronic voting through use of an electronic voting system having an electronically configurable ballot information device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the electronic voting system with ballot information including a plurality of ballot options for a contest;

designating each ballot option in a selected order of ballot options for the contest;

5 presenting to a voter the ballot information for the contest in the selected order of ballot options during a first voting session;

permitting the voter to produce a cast ballot responsively to the ballot information; and

iterating to change the selected order of ballot options according to a
10 predetermined ordering schema for additional voting sessions.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the electronic voting system includes a precinct control unit and a plurality of voting stations networked to the precinct control unit, and the step of iterating is performed at a precinct control unit.

15 26. The method according to claim 25, including steps of accessing a memory storage device to obtain the ballot information and processing the ballot information to implement the ordering schema among the plurality of voting stations.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the step of iterating
20 includes a step of balancing the selected order of ballot options amongst the plurality of voting stations so as not to favor any one of the plurality of ballot options at a precinct level during the course of an election.

28 The method according to claim 24, wherein the ballot information includes a plurality of contests each identified to corresponding ballot options and the step of iterating includes changing the selected order of corresponding ballot options among the plurality of contests.

5 29 The method according to claim 24 wherein the ballot information includes a plurality of contests each identified to corresponding ballot options and the step of iterating includes changing the selected order of corresponding ballot options among selected ones of the plurality of contests.

10 30. The method according to claim 29 wherein the electronic voting system includes a plurality of predetermined ordering schema for use in the iterating step and the method comprises a step of identifying one of the plurality of predetermined ordering schema for use in each contest.

31. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of presenting includes presenting through use of an electronically configurable a visual display.

15 32. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of presenting includes presenting through use of an audio speaker.

33. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of presenting includes presenting through use of a Braille printer.

20 34. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of permitting includes accepting input from a voter-directed ballot navigation tool.

35. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises randomizing the selected order of ballot options between successive iterations.

36. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises sequentially rotating the ballot options.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the step of sequentially rotating comprises uprotating adjacent ballot options.

5 38. The method according to claim 36, wherein the step of sequentially rotating comprises downrotating adjacent ballot options.

39. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises implementing a comprehensive plan for ballot rotation at a precinct level.

10 40. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises implementing a comprehensive plan for ballot rotation at an election jurisdiction level.

41. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises implementing a system of ballot rotation that provides a number of 15 rotation instances for each candidate at the top of the selected order such that predominance of any one candidate at the top of the selected order is statistically insignificant in influencing an election outcome.

42. The method according to claim 24, wherein the step of iterating comprises implementing a system of ballot rotation that provides, as close as is 20 mathematically possible, an equal number of rotation instances for each candidate at all positions of the selected order.

43. In an electronic voting system that is used to present ballot information to voters during the course of an election where the ballot information

Patent

Attorney Docket No. 392902

U.S. Express Mail Label No. EL820326745US

includes a plurality of ordered ballot options for a contest, the improvement

comprising:

a ballot rotation engine that is operable to change the order of ballot
options according to a predetermined ordering schema for different voting

5 sessions.